

Remarks

Claims 1-18, 20-31 and 33-44 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-11 and 21-25 have been indicated as allowable. Claims 19 and 40 have been cancelled herein. Therefore, claims 12-18, 20, 26-31, 33-39, and 41-44 are at issue.

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection to claim 13 for having an incorrect dependency. Claim 13 has been amended herein to depend upon claim 12.

Further, applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 12-18, 26-31, 33-39, and 41-44 as obvious over Dillenback U.S. Patent No. 6,766,651. Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter recited by claim 19, which has been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claims 26 and 35 have been amended herein to define over the cited art. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Amended claim 12, and claims 13-18, and 20 dependent thereon, recite a volatile substance dispensing system including a plurality of volatile substance dispensers configured to dispense volatile substances from a plurality of replaceable volatile substance reservoirs, respectively, when the plurality of volatile substance reservoirs are loaded in the dispensing system so as to communicate a volatile substance to each respective dispenser. A microprocessor controls the plurality of volatile substance dispensers to emit volatile substances from the plurality of volatile substance reservoirs according to one or more set programs. The system further includes a user interface having a mode lever to enable a user to instruct the plurality of volatile substance dispensers to dispense the volatile substances from the respective plurality of replaceable volatile substance reservoirs according to the one or more set programs. The microprocessor controls the plurality of volatile substance dispensers to perform at least one of (i) repetitive alternation between independent emissions of different volatile substances, (ii) repetitive alternation between emissions of different combinations of volatile substances, or (iii) repetitive alternation between different emission intensities of at least one volatile substance, in a set pattern. The microprocessor controls the plurality of volatile substance dispensers to emit repeatedly (i) intermittent bursts of a first combination of volatile substances from different reservoirs over a first period of time, and (ii) intermittent bursts of a second combination of volatile substances from different reservoirs over a second period of time.

Amended claim 26, and claims 27-31, 33, and 34 dependent thereon, recite a volatile substance dispensing system including at least one electromechanical dispenser configured to dispense volatile substance from a replaceable volatile substance reservoir when the volatile substance reservoir is loaded in the volatile substance dispensing system. The volatile substance reservoir includes information relating to the type of volatile substance contained therein and at least one reading device for reading the information from the volatile substance reservoir relating to the type of volatile substance stored therein. The system further includes a memory card reading device for reading program information from a replaceable memory card. A user interface including a knob and a mode lever is provided to allow a user to adjust an emission from the volatile substance reservoir and enable the user to switch between different set programs for controlling the emission from the volatile substance reservoir. In addition, the system includes a microprocessor for controlling the electromechanical dispenser to emit a volatile substance from the volatile substance reservoir, wherein the microprocessor receives one or more signals from the reading device relating to the information read from the reservoir. The microprocessor controls the emission of the volatile substance from the reservoir based on the one or more signals received from the reading device, wherein each of the signals corresponds to one of the different set programs.

Amended claim 35, and claims 36-39 and 41-44 dependent thereon, specify a volatile substance dispensing system including at least one dispenser configured to dispense a volatile substance from a plurality of replaceable volatile substance reservoirs when the volatile substance reservoir is loaded in the volatile substance dispensing system so as to communicate a volatile substance to the at least one dispenser. The plurality of replaceable volatile substance reservoirs include information relating to one or more computer-readable programs from which a user may choose. The system further includes at least one reading device for reading the information from the plurality of replaceable volatile substance reservoirs. A microprocessor receives signals from the reading device relating to the information and controls the at least one electromechanical dispenser to emit volatile substance from the plurality of replaceable volatile substance reservoirs in accordance with the signals communicated from the reading device. A knob is disposed on a housing of the volatile substance dispensing system for controlling a level of volatile substance emission from the

plurality of replaceable volatile substance reservoirs. A mode lever is provided to manually switch between the one or more computer-readable programs for controlling the level of the volatile substance emission from the plurality of replaceable volatile substance reservoirs. The housing secures the at least one dispenser and the replaceable volatile substance reservoirs are mounted within the housing so as to communicate volatile substances to the dispenser when loaded in the volatile substance dispensing system.

Dillenback discloses a user-programmable monitoring and dispensing system for controlling the dispensing of water vapor and various other media into an HVAC air stream in residential or commercial structures. The system includes a keypad/display unit 100 that is coupled to a central processor 50, power supply 51, and a water supply. Humidity and temperature sensors 23, 25 provide input regarding the air in a duct 11 to the central processor 50. The system further includes media reservoirs 35a, 35b, and 35c that have machine readable indicia disposed thereon. The reservoirs contain fragrances or agents capable of pesticidal, bactericidal, fungicidal, or sporicidal effect for use as acute or prophylactic treatment for infestation. Each of the media reservoirs 35a, 35b, and 35c includes an inner bladder (not shown) that defines first and second chambers within the reservoirs. The first chamber is connected to the water supply to fill the space around the reservoirs and compress the second chamber within the inner bladder to cause the media therein to flow into a dilution manifold 34 that is in fluid communication with the reservoirs. The central processor 50 controls a dispensing control valve to dispense the contents of the dilution manifold into the duct 11 according to a user specified program.

Dillenback does not disclose or suggest a dispensing system including a microprocessor that controls a plurality of volatile substance dispensers to emit repeatedly (i) intermittent bursts of a first combination of volatile substances from different reservoirs over a first period of time, and (ii) intermittent bursts of a second combination of volatile substances from different reservoirs over a second period of time, as recited by claims 12-18 and 20. In addition, Dillenback does not disclose or suggest a dispensing system including at least one reading device for reading the information from the volatile substance reservoir relating to the type of volatile substance stored therein and a memory card reading device for reading program information from a replaceable memory card, as recited by claims 26-31, 33, and 34. Still further, Dillenback does not disclose or suggest a volatile substance dispensing system including

a housing that secures at least one dispenser and replaceable volatile substance reservoirs are mounted within the housing so as to communicate volatile substances to the dispenser when loaded in the volatile substance dispensing system, as recited by claims 35-39 and 41-44.

To support a *prima facie* case of obviousness, an examiner must establish “a finding that the prior art included each element claimed, although not necessarily in a single prior art reference, with the only difference between the claimed invention and the prior art being the lack of actual combination of the elements in a single prior art reference.” Examination Guidelines for Determining Obviousness Under 35 U.S.C. 103 in View of the Supreme Court Decision in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.* 72 Fed. Reg. 57,526 (Oct. 10, 2007). Because the cited art does not disclose or suggest a microprocessor that controls a plurality of volatile substance dispensers, a memory card reading device for reading program information from a replaceable memory card, or a housing that secures a plurality of electromechanical dispensers, as recited by amended claims 12-18, 20, 26-31, 33, 34, 35-39, and 41-44, it follows that the claims are not obvious thereover.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims at issue and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

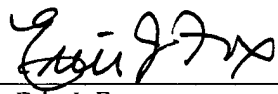
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Deposit Account Authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in any amount enclosed or any additional fees which may be required during the pendency of this application under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17, except issue fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1903.

Respectfully submitted,

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